

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The communications link 115 typically includes a delivery network 160 making a direct or indirect communication between the client system 105 and the host system 110, irrespective of physical separation. Examples of a delivery network 160 include the Internet, the World Wide Web, WANs, LANs, analog or digital wired and wireless telephone networks (e.g., PSTN, ISDN, ~~or xDSL~~), (e.g., PSTN (public switched telephone network), ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), or xDSL (Digital Subscriber Line), radio, television, cable, satellite, and/ or any other delivery mechanism for carrying data. The communications link 115 may include communication pathways 150, 155 that enable communications through the one or more delivery networks 160 described above. Each of the communication pathways 150, 155 may include, for example, a wired, wireless, cable, or satellite communication pathway.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The client device 220 typically includes a general purpose computer 270 having an internal or external storage 272 for storing data and programs such as an operating system 274 (e.g., DOS, Windows™, Windows 95™, Windows 98™, Windows 2000™, Windows XP™, Windows NT™, OS/2, or ~~Linux~~ LINUX™) and one or more application programs. Examples of application programs include authoring applications 276 (e.g., word processing, database programs, spreadsheet programs, email program, calendar programs, or graphics programs) capable of generating and/or editing documents or other electronic content; client applications 278 (e.g., AOL client, CompuServe client, AIM client, AOL TV client, or ISP (Internet service provider) client) capable of communicating with other computer users, accessing various computer resources, and viewing, creating, or otherwise manipulating electronic content; and

browser applications 280 (e.g., Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer) capable of rendering Internet content.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The host device 335 may include one or more gateways that connect and therefore link complexes, such as the OSP host complex gateway 385 and the IM host complex gateway 395. The OSP host complex gateway 385 and the IM host complex 395 gateway may directly or indirectly link the OSP host complex 380 with the IM host complex 390 through a wired or wireless host communication ~~pathway 375~~, pathway. Ordinarily, when used to facilitate a link between complexes, the OSP host complex gateway 385 and the IM host complex gateway 395 are privy to information regarding the protocol type anticipated by a destination complex, which enables any necessary protocol conversion to be performed incident to the transfer of data from one complex to another. For instance, the OSP host complex 380 and IM host complex 390 generally use different protocols such that transferring data between the complexes requires protocol conversion by or at the request of the OSP host complex gateway 385 and/or the IM host complex gateway 395.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

In the implementation of Fig. 4, the IM server 4902 is directly or indirectly connected to a routing ~~gateway 4906~~, gateway. The routing gateway 4906 facilitates the connection between the IM server 4902 and one or more alert ~~multiplexers 4908~~, multiplexers, for example, by serving as a link minimization tool or hub to connect several IM servers to several alert multiplexers. In general, an alert multiplexer 4908 maintains a record of alerts and subscribers registered to receive the alerts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Once the client system 405 is connected to the alert ~~multiplexer 4908~~, multiplexer, a subscriber can register for and/or receive one or more types of alerts. The connection pathway between the client system 405 and the alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ is determined by employing another hashing technique at the IM server 4902 to identify the particular alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ to be used for the subscriber's session. Once the particular multiplexer ~~4908~~ has been identified, the IM server 4902 provides the client system 405 with the IP address of the particular alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ and gives the client system 405 an encrypted key (i.e., a cookie). The client system 405 then uses the IP address to connect to the particular alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ through the communication link 415 and obtains access to the alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ using the encrypted key.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

The alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ is connected to an alert gate ~~4910~~ that, like the IM host complex gateway 495, is capable of performing the necessary protocol conversions to form a bridge to the OSP host complex 480. The alert gate ~~4910~~ is the interface between the IM host complex 490 and the physical servers, such as servers in the OSP host complex 480, where state changes are occurring. In general, the information regarding state changes will be gathered and used by the IM host complex 490. However, the alert multiplexer ~~4908~~ also may communicate with the OSP host complex 480 through the IM gateway 495, for example, to provide the servers and subscribers of the OSP host complex 480 with certain information gathered from the alert ~~gate 4910~~. gate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The alert gate 4910 can detect an alert feed corresponding to a particular type of alert. The alert gate 4910 may include a piece of code (alert receive code) capable of interacting with another piece of code (alert broadcast code) on the physical server where a state change occurs. In general, the alert receive code installed on the alert gate 4910 instructs the alert broadcast code installed on the physical server to send an alert feed to the alert gate 4910 upon the occurrence of a particular state change. Upon detecting an alert feed, the alert gate 4910 contacts the alert ~~multiplexor 4908~~, multiplexer, which in turn, informs the client system 405 of the detected alert feed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The host device 535 includes a mail gateway 5350 having a send mail server 5352 and a read mail server 5354. The send mail server 5352 is configured to perform functions relating to transmitting electronic data. The read mail server 5354 is configured to perform functions relating to receiving and accessing electronic data. The mail gateway 5350 is in communication with one or more processing ~~servers 5360~~. servers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

The favorite things list 650 indicates a list of selected resources that the user stores on the host system 110, such as, for example, text files, image files, audio files, and a calendar of appointments. Referring to FIG. 10, to make use of things stored on the host system 110, the user first uploads a thing from the client system 105 to the host system 110 (step 1002). The user may upload a thing by using tools within the UI 600. For example, a user may right click (or otherwise select) the "things" label 660 within window 601 to open a supplemental interface for

selecting a thing stored on the client system 105, and may use the supplemental interface to initiate a transfer of the thing from the client system 105 to the host system 110.